

# PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

## COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

### HABITATS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

#### Overstory Removal

##### *Description*

Overstory removal is a method in which the stand overstory is removed in one cut to provide release of established seedlings and saplings. This method has also been referred to as a natural shelterwood or a one-cut shelterwood.

##### Characteristics

- Even-aged
- Seed origin
- Release of established advanced regeneration
- Overstory inhibits advancement of seedlings and saplings
- Overstory may be low or high quality
- Used for shade-tolerant, mid-tolerant, and intolerant species
- Often used for species conversion or quality improvement

##### Variations

- **Uniform overstory removal:** Entire stand overstory is removed in one cut, releasing well-distributed established advanced regeneration.
- **Patch overstory removal:** Established advanced regeneration is released in patches, usually 1-2 acres in size. The entire stand is regenerated using a series of patches harvested over two or more entries, within a period of time not exceeding 20% of intended rotation.

##### *Considerations*

General considerations in the application of the overstory removal method are:

- Overstory health, condition, and composition
- Adequate stocking, distribution, vigor, and desirability of established advanced regeneration
- Existing and potential competition
- Protection of advanced regeneration from harvest damage
- Site capability



- Patch overstory removal may be necessary on wet sites to reduce the chance of raising the water table or causing damage or mortality to regeneration

#### Advantages

- Relatively simple to establish the timber sale
- Local seed source
- Site preparation is not needed
- Advancement of established and acceptable seedling population adapted to the site
- Resprouting ability of damaged hardwood regeneration
- No delay in regeneration; growing space continuously occupied

#### Disadvantages

- Inability of conifer regeneration to resprout following damage
- Careful harvesting will be needed to minimize damage to the new stand

